Greening of Herring Cove Beach Facility

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Cape Cod National Seashore

Herring Cove Beach is such a popular beach and the bathhouse and concession were deserving of a major overhaul. The 1950s era structure served people well until the structural deficiencies became too great. The design of the new facility is fully accessible with a gracious Cape Cod architectural style. The replacement facility has been built to exceptional sustainable design and construction level standards, incorporating the latest in green technology and materials.

Adaptation for climate change and severe storm potential

The new facilities were built inland from previous structure responding to an average shoreline erosion rate of 2-1/2 feet per year.

Modular construction was used so when the structures are compromised by coastal erosion they can be disassembled, moved further back from the shoreline and reassembled.

Buildings and walkways are elevated on piles to lessen impact of storm surges with 2 feet of freeboard above the existing base flood elevation consistent with state building code.

Structures are built with shear walls and hurricane hold downs to withstand wind loads up to 150 mph.

CLIMATE Friendly PARKS

Major renewable energy and resource-conserving features

Photovoltaic solar panels generate electricity year-round to offset power used during the summer to reduce fossil fuel use and achieve net-zero energy use.

Construction waste recycling of previous building concrete and asphalt surfaces totaling about 1,500 tons of demolition waste, equaling 99.42% of waste diverted from landfills.

Solar thermal hot water system and Energy Star equipment for bathroom and food concession use.

Direct connection to Provincetown Wastewater Treatment Facility sewer to eliminate on-site septic waste.

Sustainably harvested wood, composite wood and agrifiber products, and recycled and low-emitting content building materials.

Smaller clustered buildings with naturally ventilated spaces that meet "Good Practice Guide 237" (1998) of the Carbon Trust.

Designated recycling areas and water bottle filling station.

Minimal shielded exterior lighting, and motion occupancy controls for low energy fixtures for all interior lighting.

30% less water use expected due to low-flow fixtures and Water Sense labeled products.

A set-aside of 5% preferred parking for low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Public transportation drop-off area and increased capacity bicycle racks.

Photovoltaic solar array sized to meet the entire electric demand = net-zero energy.